KU4VACENG206: AGENCY AND ETHICS

Semester	Course Type	Course Level	Course Code	Credits	Total Hours
4	VAC	200-299	KU4VACENG206	3	45

Learning Approach (Hours/ Week)			Marks Distribution			Duration of ESE (Hours)
Lecture	Practical/ Internship	Tutorial	CE	ESE	Total	
3	0	0	25	50	75	1.5

Course Description:

This course explores the interconnections between agency and ethics through literature, theory, and cultural discourse. It examines how individuals and communities assert, negotiate, or resist agency in ethical and aesthetic contexts. Students will engage with literary and philosophical texts that question moral responsibility, representation, and the power of language. The course encourages reflection on contemporary social and cultural challenges, including marginality, identity, and ecological consciousness.

Course Prerequisite: NIL

Course Outcomes:

CO No.	Expected Outcome	Learning Domains
1	Understand the conceptual frameworks of agency and ethics in literature and theory.	R, U
2	Analyse the relationship between individual and collective agency in cultural and linguistic contexts.	U, An
3	Evaluate ethical implications in literary and cultural representations.	An, E
4	Apply ethical reasoning to aesthetic production and interpretation.	A, E
5	Create critical or creative responses that reflect informed ethical awareness.	C

****Remember (R), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C)***

Mapping of Course Outcomes to PSOs

	PSO 1	PSO 2	PSO 3	PSO 4	PSO 5	PSO 6	PSO 7

CO 1	X					X	X
CO 2		X				X	X
CO 3	X			X	X	X	X
CO 4		X				X	X
CO 5			X	X		X	X

COURSE CONTENTS

Contents for Classroom Transaction:

MODULE	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	HOURS 45
1	**Module 1: Agency**		**8**
	1	M. R. Renukumar. "So Many Alphabets are Seen" (Trans. Ajay Sekhar)	
	2	K. M. Krishnan. "Can't the Subaltern Speak?" (Excerpts)	
2	**Module 2: Reclaiming Agency**		**14**
	1	Sukumaran Chaligadha. "Bethimaran Becomes Sukumaran Chaligadha"	
	2	B. R. Ambedkar. *Waiting for Visa* (Episode 5)	
	3	Chinua Achebe. "Spelling Our Proper Name" (Excerpts)	
	4	bell hooks. "Talking Back" (Excerpts)	
3	**Module 3: Ethics**		**12**
	1	A. G. Gardiner. "All About a Dog"	
	2	George Orwell. "Shooting an Elephant"	
	3	Elizabeth Bishop. "Fish"	
	4	Asha Latha. "The Camel" (Trans. K. C. Muraleedharan)	
4	**Module 4: Ethics of the Aesthetic**		**6**
	1	Bertolt Brecht. "A Worker Reads History"	
	2	E. P. Rajagopalan. "The Trap in the Tale" (Trans. Deepak Denny)	

5	**Teacher Specific Module**	**5**
	A teacher can design activities for internal evaluation	
	Concept of "Agency" — autonomy, resistance, and power in discourse — Kudumbashree — Women in Cinema Collective — Unorganized Sectors. Activity: Students pick a short story/narrative from regional translation and analyse in a paragraph or two on who has agency in the text, and how is resistance voiced etc. and conduct field work to document regional issues.	

Essential Readings:

1. Ferrero, Luca, editor. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Agency*. 1st ed., Routledge, 2022.
2. Hadfield, Andrew, Dominic Rainsford, and Tim Woods, editors. *The Ethics in Literature*. Routledge, 1999.

Assessment Rubrics:

Evaluation Type		**Marks**
End Semester Evaluation		**50**
Continuous Evaluation		**25**
a)	Test Paper- 1	5
c)	Assignment	5
d)	Seminar	5
e)	Book/ Article Review	5
f)	Viva-Voce	5
Total		**75**